

County Profile: Passaic

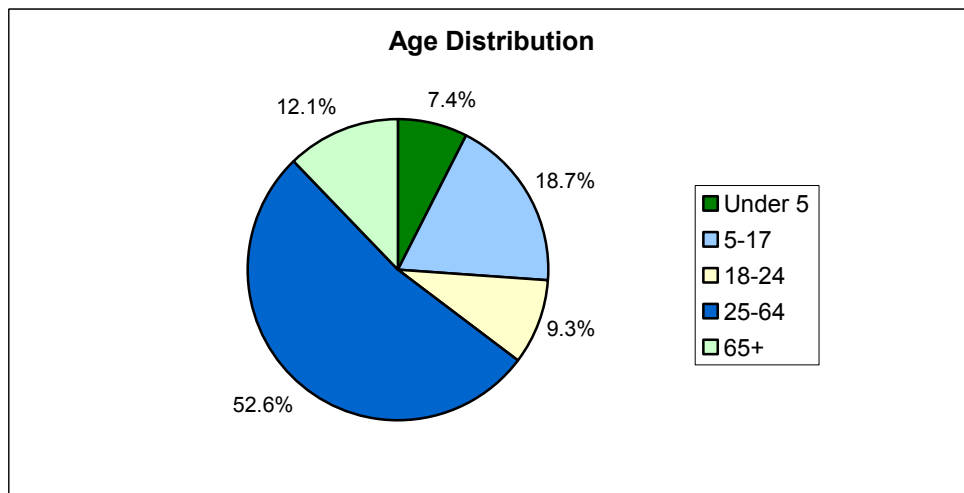


General Demographics

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, 489,049 individuals reside in Passaic County's 16 municipalities. These individuals are spread out over a land area of 185.29 square miles, which translates into a population density of 2,639.3 persons per square mile. This makes Passaic County the 9th most populous of the state's 21 counties, and the fifth most densely populated county in the state.

At 7.9%, Passaic County grew less from 1990 to 2000 than the state as a whole. Five municipalities experienced reductions in their population over the past decade, and growth in the other municipalities varied, ranging from 1% for Pompton Lakes Borough (total 2000 population – 10,640) to 18.7% for Haledon Borough (total 2000 population – 8,252). Passaic County's largest urban communities also experienced growth, ranging from 5.9% for Paterson City to 16.9% for Passaic City. Paterson is the county's largest municipality, with a population of 149,222.

Passaic County has 127,486 children under the age of 18. They comprise 26.1% of the county's total population and 6.1% of the state's child population. Approximately 62% of Passaic County residents are of working age (18 through 64), and 12.1% are 65 years and older. In its age distribution, Passaic County has a larger percentage of children and young adults than the state as a whole. At 34.8, the median age of Passaic County residents is less than the median of 36.7 years of age for the state as a whole.



Child Welfare

Passaic County's portion of statewide child abuse and neglect referrals is slightly more than the proportion of children residing in the county. While 6.1% of all children in New Jersey reside in Passaic County, 6.7%, or 2,608 of the child abuse and neglect referrals are generated there. The patterns of abuse and neglect differ from the state pattern. Compared to statewide percentages, a slightly greater proportion of Passaic County referrals were made for physical abuse and smaller percentages of the referrals were made for most other forms of abuse and neglect.

Child Abuse and Neglect Referrals in 2001

	Passaic County		New Jersey	
	N	%	N	%
Physical abuse	991	38.0	12,382	32.0
Emotional abuse	11	0.4	330	0.9
Sexual	131	5.0	2,179	5.6
Neglect	1,346	51.6	22,099	57.1
Multiple types	129	4.9	1,716	4.4
<i>Total</i>	2,608	---	38,706	---
Substantiated rate per 1,000 children	3.9	---	4.0	---
Percent substantiated	19.2	---	21.8	---

In the two Passaic County District Offices, the active DYFS caseload is 3,028 children and 1,461 families. There are 321 in-state foster homes in Passaic County. There are 307 Passaic County children in foster care, which is 3.9% of the 7,807 children in foster care in New Jersey and less than the percentage of children residing in this county. Of the Passaic County children in foster care, 38.8% reside in a different county than their family, which is lower than the out-of-county statewide average of 44.6%.

From 1998 to 2002, twelve children in Passaic County died as a result of abuse and neglect out of a statewide total of 123. Six of the families of these children had an open/active case with DYFS at the time of their death and two were unknown to DYFS. The number of all infants who died in Passaic County in 2000 was 42, 5.8% of the 723 infant deaths occurring in the state. The infant mortality rate of 5.3 deaths under the age of 1 per 1,000 live births was less than the statewide rate of 6.3.

Child Welfare Outcome Measures

Information on various child welfare outcomes for Passaic County is presented in the following table.¹ The data show a number of positive outcomes for children in foster care in Passaic County. The percent of foster care cases where children re-enter care within 12 months of leaving a foster care episode is better than the national standard (4.8% vs. 8.6% for the national standard). In addition, compared to the national

¹ See definitions that follow for detailed descriptions of the categories presented in this table.

standard of 86.7%, a higher percentage of Passaic children who have been in foster care less than twelve months have no more than two placements.

At the same time, there are areas where Passaic County does not meet the national standard. The recurrence of maltreatment among foster care cases is proportionally greater in Passaic County compared to the national standard (9.3% compared to 6.1%) and there is a greater incidence of abuse and neglect in the county compared to the national standard (.73% compared to the national standard of .57%).

2001 Child Welfare Outcome Measures by County

	Passaic County	State	National Standard
Recurrence of maltreatment	9.3%	6.4%	6.1% or less
A/N incidence in foster care	.73%	.78%	.57% or less
Reunify within 12 months without increasing re-entry	65.2%	59.5%	76.2% or more
Re-enter care within 12 months	4.8%	8.2%	8.6% or less
Reduce time in foster care to adoption	21.8%	16.3%	32.0% or more
Increase placement stability	89.0%	86.2%	86.7% or more

Note. Data supplied by DYFS

Definitions

Reduce recurrence of maltreatment – of children who were victims of substantiated or indicated child abuse and/or neglect during the first six months of the reporting period, the percentage who had another substantiated or indicated report within a six-month period.

A/N incidence in foster care – of children who were in foster care during the reporting period, the percentage that was the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment by a foster parent or facility staff member.

Reunify within 12 months without increasing re-entry – of children reunified with parents or caretakers at time of discharge from foster care, the percentage reunified within 12 months.

Re-enter care within 12 months – of children who entered foster care during the reporting period, the percentage that re-entered care within 12 months of leaving foster care episode.

Reduce time in foster care to adoption – of all children who exited foster care to adoption, the percentage who exited within 24 months.

Increase placement stability – of all children who had been in foster care less than 12 months, the percentage who had no more than two placement settings during that time period.

Data Sources

DYFS Approved Foster Homes File, 8/4/03
DYFS Caseload Activity Report (DAR-SISM-5), 8/1/03
DYFS, Child Abuse and Neglect in New Jersey Statistical Report for 2000
DYFS Child Abuse and Neglect in New Jersey Statistical Report for 2001
DYFS Foster Care File Extract, 6/6/03
DYFS Statewide Summary of Foster Homes (DAR-PCISM-1), 7/4/03
NJ Substantiated Abuse and Neglect Child Fatality Analysis for 1998-2002, July 2003
U.S. Census Bureau, Census 1990
U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Redistricting Data Summary File, Population for the Counties and Municipalities in New Jersey: 1990 and 2000 (PL1)
U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Summary File 1, Geographic Comparison Table, Age and Sex (GCT-P5)
U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Summary File 1, Geographic Comparison Table, Population, Housing Units, Area and Density (GCT-PH1-R)
U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Summary File 1, Quick Table, QT-P2.
U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Demographic Profiles, Profile of General Demographic Characteristics (DP-1)

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